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FULLER QUARRIES
THE FULLER FOUNDATION

March 9, 1979

Mr. Ronald W. Daniels, Coordinator Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining 1588 West North Temple Salt Lake City, Utah 84116



Re: Fuller Quarries
Box Elder County, Utah

Dear Mr. Daniels:

On March 2, 1979, we received a communication from you concerning our Turquoise Stone mining claims in Section 18, T. 13 N., R. 13 W., Box Elder County, Utah. These claims are currently in good standing.

As the operator and largest owner of these claims, I have had a series of disagreements with the policy, purpose and enforcement of many laws applicable to surface quarrying operations in Utah, both on the federal and state level. The origin of the trouble started about ten years ago because arbitrary property tax assessments were imposed upon our equipment and machinery located on the site. The matter ended in litigation in the District Court of Box Elder County, and after several years of protracted litigation the State of Utah conceded the issue on the courthouse steps. I vowed at the time, and I kept my promise, that I would never again purchase a new piece of equipment in that growing operation which the State of Utah could arbitrarily tax. I have kept that promise.

With the onset of combined State and Federal regulation involving employees, we point-blank told all investigators that our operation just about had to be the safest, cleanest and best-run operation anywhere in the United States—and no one has been able to prove otherwise to this time. However, we got stuck in the federal computers, and now we receive a barrage of "Fatalgrams", directives, instructions, notices of safety meetings, and other paper paraphernalia—all of which is designed to put over the fact to sensible and intelligent people that they are operating quarries and mines on a third grade intelligence level. I find it absolutely disgusting.

As a result of MSHA looking over our shoulders, about three years ago we took the bull by the horns, met the challenge, called their bluff, and dismissed all employees. We have not hired a man for at least three years, and we will not hire anyone again; all of our operations are strictly conducted within our small family group which consists of a limited partnership arrangement.

The State of Utah, working hand in hand with the federal agencies, recently got the bright idea that all of our State surface operations of the type we have should be subjected to

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more regulation. In most of the areas this is simply a big colossal joke, both because the impact of any open mining operations is such a negligible portion of the surface area of this big state, and also because in our great open spaces the impact is rarely seen and, further, on the rugged ridge where our operation has been conducted in Park Valley the quarrying of stone probably leaves the terrain looking better than had nothing occurred—certainly no worse.

Some day someone in government will realize that its heavy hand has killed prospering businesses, just as it has ours. In checking our records and in furnishing you information, since 1976 we have built no roads in the area, our annual removal of stone from the quarry face would not exceed a strip of hard rock cliff more than 10 foot wide and not to exceed fifty feet in length. The deposit of any worked-over stone for disposal, together with the excavated area, for 1978 would not involve an area of more than 1,000 square feet, or approximately 0.02 acre.

Our records for 1978 stone sales indicate 393 tons , all of which was quarried and processed by three of the co-owners of the deposit.

It would appear from Section 40-8-4 (6), Utah Code Annotated, our activities would not qualify as "mining operation". And it is our intention that our activities never again get into the category of the definition of "mining operations." However, if by any possible chance you have a Regulation which covers us, or if you stuff us into a computer with its regular mailed print-outs, it will be no trouble at all for us to completely abandon the balance of this operation and get beyond all government supervision. As it is, we could take our properties to patent or maintain minimal annual assessment work, sell them to some California outfit for hunting and other recreational purposes at a very good figure, and let the State of Utah and Box Elder County put up with a bunch of land hungry out-of-State people who would probably attempt to subdivide the area for summer homesites. In any event, I will bet that the State of Utah will end up the loser.

I hope this letter sufficiently answers your inquiry.

Very truly yours,

Glen E. Fuller

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